

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-10 (canceled).

11 (currently amended) An isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has ~~one or more biological activities~~ a binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide.

12 (canceled).

13 (previously presented) An isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.

14 (previously presented) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 13, comprising nucleotides 149 to 1408 of SEQ ID NO:1.

15 (previously presented) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 13, comprising SEQ ID NO:1.

16-29 (canceled).

30 (currently amended) An isolated antisense polynucleotide, comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to nucleotides 149 to 1408 SEQ ID NO:1 in its entirety.

31 (currently amended) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11, wherein said ~~one or more biological activities~~ binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide ~~comprise~~ comprises interaction with IKK- $\alpha/\beta$  in cells.

32 (currently amended) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11, wherein said ~~one or more biological activities~~ binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide ~~comprise~~ comprises IKK- $\beta$  binding activity.

33 (currently amended) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11, wherein said ~~one or more biological activities~~ binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide ~~comprise~~ comprises IKK- $\alpha$  binding activity.

34 (currently amended) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11, wherein said ~~one or more biological activities~~ binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide ~~comprise~~ comprises dimerization or trimerization activity.

35 (new) An isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule encoding an IKK- $\gamma$  deletion derivative, wherein said IKK- $\gamma$  deletion derivative has a binding activity of a full-length IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide.

36 (new) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 35, wherein said IKK- $\gamma$  deletion derivative is an amino-terminal deletion derivative of IKK- $\gamma$  comprising amino acids 134 to 419 of SEQ ID NO:2.

37 (new) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 35, wherein said IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide is a carboxy-terminal deletion derivative of IKK- $\gamma$  comprising amino acids 1 to 300 of SEQ ID NO:2.

38 (new) An isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule encoding an IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide comprising one or more conservative amino acid changes such that said IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide has at least 95% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

39 (new) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 38, wherein said IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide has at least 97% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

40 (new) The isolated human IKK- $\gamma$  nucleic acid molecule of Claim 38, wherein said IKK- $\gamma$  polypeptide has at least 99% amino acid identity with SEQ ID NO:2.